

KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON  
January 1, 1995 Through December 31, 1995

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Schedule Of Findings

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1. The County Fair Should Not Purchase Alcohol For Fair Sponsorship Events

The county commissioners approved the purchase of \$557.45 of beer, wine, and spirits for the sponsorship barbecue held during the 1995 county fair.

A municipal corporation may incur meal expenses in certain circumstances, provided those expenditures logically relate to a public purpose and are reasonable in amount and nature. However, there is no statutory authority for municipal corporations to provide meals to family members, employees, or sponsors.

In addition, the Kittitas County Alcohol and Drug Abuse Policy states in part:

B. Policy

2. The unauthorized use, sale, purchase or possession of alcohol and/or other drugs at the worksite is prohibited and shall be grounds for discipline and/or dismissal.

3. Employees shall not make or traffic intoxicants while on county property or in any way use their position as a County employee to make or traffic intoxicants. Such activity may be grounds for dismissal.

The fair manager was unaware of the restrictions for purchasing and supplying the sponsors with alcoholic beverages.

The purchase and use of alcohol, prohibited by county policy, results in an inappropriate use of public funds.

We recommend the county commissioners clarify their policy on the use of public funds for the purchase of alcoholic beverages with all county employees. We further recommend the commissioners approve only valid county expenditures.

2. The Kittitas County Sheriff Does Not Audit Traffic Citations In Accordance With Washington Statutes

The Kittitas County Sheriff does not have a system in place to ensure that they record the disposition of all traffic citations issued by the department.

RCW 46.64.010 states in part:

Such chief administrative officer shall maintain in connection with every traffic citation issued by an officer under his supervision a record of the disposition of the charge by the court.

The sheriff stated the reason they do not maintain the disposition of all citations was due to staff size limitations.

If the traffic enforcement agency which issues citations does not record the disposition of all citations, there is a possibility that errors or irregularities could occur and go undetected.

We recommend the sheriff develop a system to ensure that the disposition of all citations issued is obtained from the court.